

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-15 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended. Claims 1, 6 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 5, 10 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner. As the Examiner will note, in view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that all pending claims should be allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanaoka, U.S. Patent No. 6,736,496. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite a combination of elements including "a body which has a protrusive bottom surface squeezed by the ink cartridge" and "the squeezed protrusive bottom surface forming an ink gathering zone with a higher porosity than a remainder of the body". Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite a combination of

steps including “the protrusive bottom surface being squeezed by the ink cartridge so that the protrusive bottom surface forms an ink gathering zone with a higher porosity than a remainder of the body”. Support for the above combination of elements and steps can be found on FIG. 4 and page 7, lines 2-7, of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements and steps as set forth in amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11 are not disclosed nor suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

Hanaoka discloses a foam-type ink tank 100 including a foam containing portion 105 formed with the container body 102 and the container cover 104, and a foam 106 contained in the foam containing portion 105 (see FIGs. 9 and 10; col. 12, lines 13-17). As shown in FIG. 10 of Hanaoka, there is a gap between the container body 102 and the protrusive bottom surface (left portion) of the foam 106. Since the protrusive bottom surface of Hanaoka’s foam 106 does not contact the container body 102, the protrusive bottom surface is not squeezed by the container body 102. Accordingly, Hanaoka fails to teach “a body which has a protrusive bottom surface squeezed by the ink cartridge” as set forth in claims 1 and 6 and “the protrusive bottom surface being squeezed by the ink cartridge” as set forth in claim 11.

In addition, since Hanaoka fails to teach that the foam 106 has a squeezed protrusive bottom surface, this reference also fails to teach “the squeezed protrusive bottom surface forming an ink gathering zone with a higher porosity than a remainder of the body” as set forth in claims 1 and 6 and “the protrusive bottom surface forms an ink gathering zone with a higher porosity than a remainder of the body” as set forth in claim 11.

Since Hanaoka fails to teach each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1, 6 and 11, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 6 and 11 and their dependent claims

clearly define over the teachings of Hanaoka. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

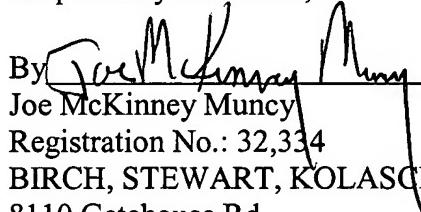
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant